

# Introduction to International Relations

Political Science 106 | Fall 2019

CRN#: 11601

August 19, 2019 | December 14, 2019

## Instructor information:

Ric Epps, Professor

Office: Room 1712

**Virtual Office Hours:** I will be available for virtual office hours – one morning (Tuesdays, 9-10am) and one evening session (Wednesdays, 6-7pm).

**Campus Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 230-330pm, Wednesdays, 10-11am  
and by appt.

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Please phone or email to arrange appointments

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why does war occur? For example, does an aggressive human nature inevitably lead us to war? Or does war occur because some types of states, perhaps fascist ones, are more prone to war? Or because of some greater general uncertainty underlying the anarchic nature of world order? Is a world full of democratic-capitalist governments the solution? Is it possible or even desirable? Can states cooperate to solve global environmental problems like climate change? This course addresses such questions in its survey of the field of international relations. The first part introduces the major theoretical traditions and their applications to world events over the past several hundred years. The second portion of the course will focus on several important issues in global politics, including: humanitarian interventions, national and global security—terrorism and nuclear proliferation, political economy, globalization, poverty and development, the environment/climate change, and global governance *vis-à-vis* international law and organizations. Finally, the course considers current and future challenges in the practice and study of international relations.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Compare basic theories of international relations and their explanations for state behavior.
2. Critically analyze current international events.
3. Use the basic scientific method to test different explanations for international outcomes.
4. Identify and evaluate the role of a variety of international actors, including states, non-state actors such as terrorists' groups, multinational corporations, international intergovernmental organizations, and international non-governmental organizations.

## COURSE INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, assigned readings, videos, group projects, online quizzes, and exams. ***The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinions will be encouraged and safeguarded.***

Students are advised to take notes from the online lectures and PowerPoint lectures as lecture materials are stressed on exams and assignments. Student discussion groups are also required.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIALS

Readings should be completed *before* the class for which they are assigned. There is one required textbook:

**James M. Scott, Ralph Carter and A. Cooper Drury. *IR*, 3rd Edition.**

The book is available at the bookstore.

In addition to assigned readings, I highly encourage you to follow current events. You can do this through a variety of sources, including Washington Post online, New York Times Online, the BBC, and variety of other news feeds. I also encourage you to check the United Nations news site at <http://www.un.org/news/>.

I do offer one caveat in reading current events online. Make sure to read multiple sources as stories often develop rapidly and certain sites may put their own spin on a story. On controversial issues in particular, you should read multiple sources from different perspectives. ***DO NOT RELY ON BLOGS WITH QUESTIONABLE SOURCES. YOU ARE FREE TO READ BLOGS AND OTHER ONLINE SOURCES, BUT READ THEM WITH A CRITICAL EYE.***

# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## Access

If you do not have access to a computer off campus, there is a [computer lab on campus](#) you can use to participate in the course. Most public libraries also have computers with internet access that you can use for free.

## Computer Requirements

You will need to have an up-to-date browser, operating system and some additional software on your computer to take this class. Check this Distance Education page for hardware & software requirements. Some of the documents in this course will be available to you in PDF form. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, you can download it by going to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Each week you will need to complete the following:

- Read the weekly Chapter(s) as required.
- Watch Chapter Videos.
- Review Student Study Site (Sage Website).
- Review Chapter PowerPoints.
- Take the weekly quizzes: **Quizzes (IR) 1-7 by 11pm, the night before Exam 1.**  
**Quizzes (IR) 8-14 by 11pm, the night before Exam 2.**

## GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the semester. The final course grade will be combining the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include, Simulation, Quizzes and Exams. (See below). This course requires the use of a computer, tablet, or smartphone to complete all required assignments. Please be sure to assess that you have access to a necessary device).

**Quizzes: = 140 points**

**Simulation: = 200 points**

**Exams (2 x 100pts.): = 200 points**

**Total: = 540 points**

## Grade Score Breakdown:

480-540 = A range, 420-479 = B range, 360-419 = C range, 300-359 = D range, Below 300 = F

## Quizzes

Students are required to complete weekly chapter quizzes for the Scott textbook. The quizzes directly relate to the chapter content and are utilized to help you prepare for the course exams.

## IR Simulation (Group Project)

Students will be divided into groups to create and facilitate an original debate, simulation on topics in international relations. All students will be assigned a specific (country/NGO/IGO) group for the simulation. The simulation will cover a specific international issue in which each group will play the role and support the respective position of their represented country. Each group will select two group leaders who will be responsible for coordinating and submitting all group activities and assignments, they will also be the primary group liaison to the professor. I will work directly with all group leaders to deal with any group issues and/or problems. In conjunction with the simulation, each group will be required to do a PowerPoint presentation and submit a detailed overview of their country, and all pertinent research data and analyses concerning the issues discussed. More information will be forthcoming.

## Exams

There will be two (2) exams. Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in's, identifications, and short answers, or short essay. The exams are designed to test your familiarity with the lecture/discussion materials, reading assignments, and your independent ability to apply what you have learned.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

### Announcements

Announcements will be posted in CANVAS on a regular basis. They will appear on your CANVAS dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from CANVAS. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain any important information about upcoming projects or class concerns.

### Email

In this course, we will use the Inbox feature (located on the left-hand side, titled "Inbox") to send email for private messages. You can either check your messages in the CANVAS system or set your notifications to your preferred method of contact. Please check your messages regularly. When submitting messages, please do the following:

- Put a subject in the subject box that describes the email content with your name, week and message subject. For example, YOURNAMEWK2ASSIGNMENT.
- Send email only to "Inbox" and not my personal email account.
- Do not send messages asking general information about the class, please post those in the QUESTION FORUM.

- Do not submit your assignments by messenger.
- Make certain to check your messages frequently.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to arrive to class on time, with all electronic devices turned off and put away.** Since participation in classroom work and discussion is an important part of this course, **students missing more than three (3) class sessions will have 10 points deducted from their total points for “each” unexcused absence thereafter.** Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences. If you have any work issues that prevent your regular attendance—see me asap so we can figure out a plan.

**LEAVING CLASS:** Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the **entire class session—of course you can go to the bathroom!** Students leaving the class early, without obtaining approval from the instructor prior to the start of class, will be counted absent for the day.

**CELL PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cell phones and electronic devices **must be turned off and put away during class**, with the exception of laptops or tablets for note taking purposes **only**. Students violating this policy during a class period will receive one warning, after which, they will be asked to leave the class, and **there will be a full letter grade deduction from their FINAL GRADE.**

Also, students caught doing non-course related work during class will get one warning; a 2nd offense will result in **one full letter grade deduction from your final grade.**

**MAKEUP AND LATE WORK:** The scheduled dates of all exams and assignments are clearly indicated in this syllabus. **No make-up exams or late papers will be accepted or permitted without my prior approval. Also, if you miss an exam you must provide documentation to explain your absence—I will decide if a makeup will be allowed.**

### **CLASSROOM ETTIQUITE**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college instructor.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- **Food and Drink** is prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children—However, please come and see me if this is an issue for you—I’ll do my best to help.

## **WEBSITE AND TECHNICAL TOOLS**

The Canvas learning management system will be used to deliver the online course. Students need consistent and reliable access to the Internet, preferably using the Chrome, Firefox or Safari web browsers. Students without reliable Internet access, can utilize the computers in the library, or they should contact their counselor to create a plan to access the course daily.

## **TIME MANAGEMENT**

Online courses require a considerable amount of time. You are expected to follow the pacing guidelines outlined by your teacher. You are not required to log-in to the course at a set interval, time, or day.

However, to be successful in the course, you should plan to spend near five hours per week actively engaged in the class. The amount of time you spend on coursework will vary depending on your skill level and knowledge in a variety of areas. While on vacation or other activities, you are expected to adhere to your instructors pacing guidelines. **MAKEUP AND LATE WORK:** The scheduled dates of all exams, quizzes, and written assignments are clearly indicated in this syllabus. No make-up exams or late papers will be accepted without my prior approval.

## **NETIQUETTE**

What is netiquette? Simply stated, it's network etiquette -- that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. In other words, Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Classes with an online component require the use of good netiquette.

Many online courses use discussion forums. Here are four tips for good netiquette in an online discussion.

1. It's typically a good idea to address the person you're responding to by name, just as if you were speaking to them face-to-face. It's also a good idea to sign your posting. This will make your online discussion more personal and remind you to be polite!
2. Use care when interacting online, since you don't have the ability to gauge a person's reaction or feelings as you do in a face-to-face conversation. Particularly, humor and sarcasm should always be used very carefully and where needed, labeled as such.
3. It may be ok to disagree with someone depending on your professor's direction for the assignment if you give good reasons for doing so. Remember that people are perfectly entitled to debate both sides of a course idea or topic, and that reasoned argument is an important part of a college education. Your response should never ever attack someone personally. You can disagree with someone, and they with you while remaining respectful.
4. Identify your sources if you use quotes, references, or resources. Your work must always be distinctively your own writing unless you have indicated otherwise.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the

Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

**Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:**

- Plagiarism is defined as taking and presenting, as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to 'cite a source' correctly, you must ask for help.
- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment.
- Communicating test information with another person during an examination.
- Allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment.
- Using a commercial term paper service.

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES- DSPS (Disabled Student Programs and Services)**

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSPS office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

**STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre -paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a full-time mental health counselor. For information click [here](#). The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

**STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please click [here](#) to refer to the IVC General Catalog available online.

**INFORMATION LITERACY**

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials by clicking [here](#).

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

## **FALL 2019 COURSE CALENDAR: Assignments and Topics**

### **Week #1 Aug. 19-24**

PREPARATIONS: Buy textbook: IR, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. By James Scott, et al.

ASSIGNMENTS:

TOPICS: Introduction to Course

### **Week #2 Aug. 26-31**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 1

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 1

TOPICS: **What Are We studying? How Are We Studying It?**

### **Week #3 Sept. 2-7**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 2

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 2

TOPICS: **Setting the Stage: A History of Actors in the International System**

### **Week #4 Sept. 9-14**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 3

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 3

TOPICS: **Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism in International Relations**

### **Week #5 Sept. 16-21**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 4

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 4

TOPICS: **Alternative Perspectives**

### **Week #6 Sept. 23-28**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp's 5 & 6

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp's 5 & 6

TOPICS: **Explaining the Origins of Conflict & Managing Conflict**

### **Week #7 Sept. 30-Oct. 5**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 7

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 7

Assignment 1 due

TOPICS: **International Law and Institutions**

**Week #8 Oct. 7-12**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp's 8, 9

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp's 8, 9

TOPICS: **The Global Economy & Economic Statecraft**

**Week #9 Oct. 14-19**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp's 10, 11

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp's 10, 11

TOPICS: **International Economic Development & Human Rights**

**Week #10 Oct. 21-26**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp's 11, 12

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp's 11, 12

TOPICS: **Human Rights & The Global Environment**

**Week #11 Oct. 28-Nov.2**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp's 13, 14

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp's 13, 14

TOPICS: **Transnational Advocacy Networks & Concluding Thoughts**

**Week #12 Nov. 4-9**

PREPARATIONS: Sim Prep

ASSIGNMENTS: Sim Prep

TOPICS: **TBD**

**Week #13 Nov. 11-16**

PREPARATIONS: Review Sim Materials

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation

TOPICS: **TBD**

**Week #14 Nov. 18-23**

PREPARATIONS: Review Sim Materials

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation

TOPICS: **TBD**

**\*\*\*THANKSGIVING WEEK HOLIDAY- NO CLASS!!!\*\*\***

**Week #15 Dec. 2-7**

PREPARATIONS: Review Sim Materials

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation

TOPICS: **TBD**

**\*\*Week #16 Dec. 9-14 (Final Exam)**

PREPARATIONS: Review Sim Materials

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation- Final Submission

TOPICS: TBD